

1991

SOUTH UNIMAK AND SHUMAGIN ISLANDS  
JUNE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## ABSTRACT

This document is intended to provide commercial fishermen and buyers with pertinent management information and guidelines that are required to be adhered to when participating in the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June commercial salmon fisheries.

It is likely that the first fishing period will be on June 13 (there may be a brief delay if an unacceptably high number of chum salmon are present).

In-season announcements will be broadcast over KSPD, VHF 6, 3230, 3261, and 4125. Information may also be obtained over the ADF&G record-a-phone in Sand Point at 383-2334.

Buyers must report their salmon purchases by species (preferably in both numbers of fish and pounds) to either the Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Cold Bay or Sand Point or to the Department representative on grounds at South Unimak aboard an enforcement vessel (Wolstad, Vigilant, or Trooper). Catch reports should be made as soon as possible on the morning after a fishing day. Contact can be made over VHF 6, 3230, or 4125. Buyers may also phone or fax their information in.

Cold Bay	Telephone: 532-2410	Fax 532-2470
Sand Point	Telephone: 383-2066	Fax 383-2606

Fish tickets should be given to the Department of Fish and Game representative at South Unimak or mailed to one of the below addresses:

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 50  
Cold Bay, AK 99571

Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
P.O. Box 129  
Sand Point, AK 99661

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The Shumagin Islands fishery includes only the Shumagin Islands Section of the Southeastern District. The South Unimak District includes the following locations as shown in Figure 1:

- A. Unimak District
- B. Bechevin Bay Section of the Northwestern District
- C. Ikatan Bay Section of the Southwestern District
- D. Those waters of the Southwestern District in addition to the Ikatan Bay Section (but does not include closed waters as described under 5 AAC 09.350) listed below:
  - 1. Those waters north and west of a line from Cape Pankof Light to Thin Point (54°57'26" N. lat., 162°33'12" W. long.).
  - 2. The waters enclosed by a line from Thin Point to Stag Point (54°10' N. lat., 161°53'45" W. long.) to Dolgoi Cape (55°03'45" N. lat., 161°44' W. long.) and from Bluff Point (55°10' N. lat., 161°53'45" W. long.) to Arch Point (55°12'20" N. lat., 161°54'15" W. long.).

Fishermen should be aware that closed waters (under 5 AAC 09.350) to salmon fishing as specified in the regulation book are in effect during June. There is no change as to what gear types are legal in a given location other than what is specified in the 1990-91 commercial salmon fishing regulation book (in other words, the locations added to the South Unimak fishery in 1990 did not increase the area open to drift gillnetting).

The time period covered by the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 09.365) is June 13-30, except that the fishery can extend into July if weather prevents fishing during the June 26-30 period.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries has placed a 600,000 (fish) chum

salmon harvest limit (chum cap) on the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands fisheries combined. If this cap is reached, the fishery will be closed regardless of how many sockeye are left unharvested by the South Unimak-Shumagin Islands June fisheries.

The total sockeye guideline harvest level for the South Unimak and Shumagin Islands June fisheries is 6.8% and 1.5%, respectively, of the 1991 inshore Bristol Bay sockeye harvest forecast. Based on the Bristol Bay forecast (as of March 11, 1991), the 1991 sockeye guideline harvest levels are as listed below. The forecast and guideline harvest levels are subject to change.

<u>Period</u>		<u>South Unimak</u>	<u>Shumagin Islands</u>
June 13 - 18	35%	550,000	122,000
June 19 - 25	45%	708,000	156,000
June 26 - 30	<u>20%</u>	<u>315,000</u>	<u>69,000</u>
Total	100%	1,573,000	347,000

If the first period's allocation is not taken during June 13-18, up to 5% of the total season allocation of the unharvested portion may be taken during the June 19-25 period.

Fishing periods will be announced by field emergency order, and will be adjusted to keep the sockeye salmon harvest within the guidelines for a given guideline harvest level period. If guideline harvest levels are inadvertently exceeded during any given fishing period, the excess sockeye will be a portion of the total guideline harvest level.

Tentatively (if there are indications of an unacceptably high number of chums present, there may be a delay in scheduling the first fishing period), the first fishing period will be from 6:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M. during June 13. If the weather is fishable, the time of the next period will depend on the harvests

of both sockeye and chum salmon during June 13. If the chum per sockeye ratio is high, it may be necessary to wait until near the end of the June 13-18 period before fishing again.

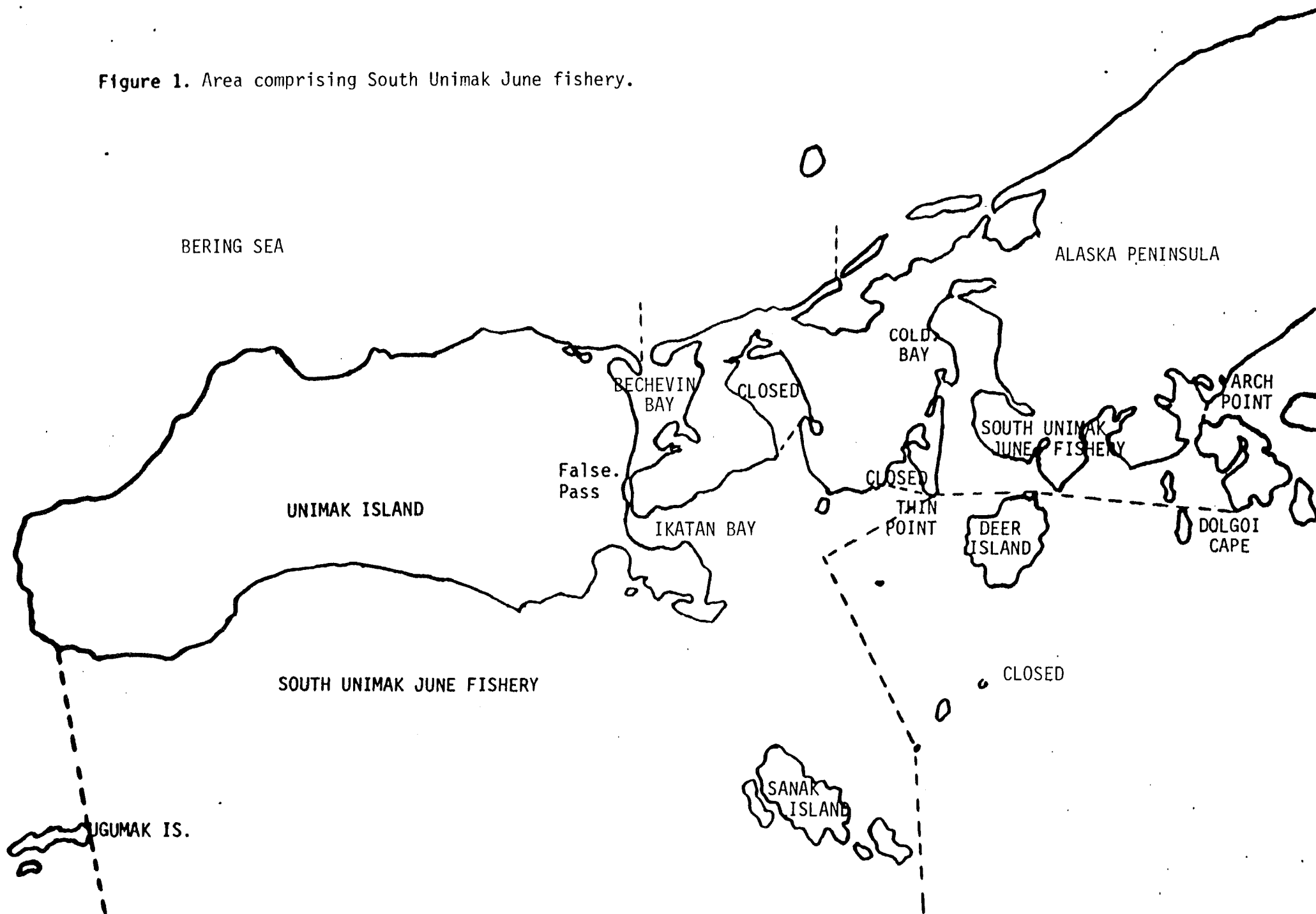
If catch rates are low and fishing time must be maximized, extensions of a fishing period may be made within several hours prior to the scheduled closure. The fishery may also be extended on short notice to achieve the sockeye guideline harvest levels if indications are that a high abundance of sockeye and relatively few chums are present.

Fishing regulation announcements will be made over KSPD, VHF 6, 3230, 3261, and 4125.

GEAR REGULATIONS CHANGES (Valid for the Entire Season)  
IMPLEMENTED IN 1990.

1. The maximum depth of seines is 375 meshes. Seine mesh size may not exceed 3-1/2 inches except the first 25 meshes above the leadline may not be more than 7 inches.
2. Seine leads may not be less than 50 fathoms nor more than 150 fathoms in length throughout the entire Alaska Peninsula Area.
3. In the Unimak and Southwestern Districts, drift gillnets may not exceed 90 meshes in depth.
4. In the Northwestern and Northern Districts, drift gillnets may not exceed 70 meshes in depth, except in the Nelson Lagoon Section where drift gillnets may not exceed 29 meshes through August 15 or more than 38 meshes in depth after August 15. In the Northwestern and Northern Districts leadline weights on drift gillnets fishing in this area will be restricted so that no more than 60 fathoms of a single leadline will be allowed per 50 fathoms of cork line. No portion of this leadline may exceed 1.5 pounds per fathom.
5. In the Unimak, Southwestern, South Central and Southeastern Districts, the maximum depth of set gillnets shall not be over 90 meshes.

**Figure 1.** Area comprising South Unimak June fishery.



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